

BRIC Keynote

Introduction

- I. Good evening everyone, I am so excited to be here to celebrate amazing women who are redefining and reshaping the field of technology
- II. Acknowledgments: Before I get started I'd like to thank the Black River Innovation Campus for inviting me to speak at such a great event. It is an honored be here.

Body of Speech

- I. For far too long women in tech have fought an uphill battle for better representation, better pay, and fair treatment in the workplace.
 - a. According to *The National Center for Woman and Information Technology*, 57% of all professional occupation's in the U.S. in 2019 were held by women. Yet only 26% of all professional computing occupations in the same year were held by women. Only 3% of these professional computing occupation's were held by Black women.
 - b. In 2018 a study released by the software platform *Carta* showed in Silicon Valley that women make only 47 cents to the dollar a male employee earns.
 - c. Gender bias in the workplace, lack of female leaders or mentors, and unequal opportunities for growth are just a few other challenges women in tech face.

Transition: We must strive to create a more diverse future for women in technology. To do we must start by giving the next generation more female role models and inspiration to aspire to.

- II. In this virtual room we are surrounded by so many talented, incredibly smart women who are redefining what it means and what it looks like to be a women in technology.
 - a. We are joined today by directors, artists, founders, and leaders.
 - i. Rebecca Roose – From Richmond, VT who is an app creator and now the director of digital products at Mamava Inc.
 - ii. Karen Longo- An artist, owner and creative director of Dragonfly Designs from Boston
 - iii. Margaret Ng- Director of Operations, Legends of Runeterra at Riot Games and professional teams and leadership coach from Manhattan Beach, CA

These are just a few of the extraordinary women we will be hearing from today

- b. For too long have women in this field had to experience being only women at the table. It is women like you all here today who will inspire a next generation of women to peruse interests in technology.

Transition: Vermont can be a laboratory for rural America

III. The Black River Innovation Campus is an extraordinary example of what states across the country can achieve in rural areas.

- a. As I'm sure you all know, good reliable high-speed internet is crucial to the work you do. Broadband is central to creating new hubs of innovation specifically in the field of technology. In order to create better access to the field of technology especially in a state like Vermont we must expand the reach of broadband to our rural communities.
- b. It excites me that Vermont and the Black River Innovation Campus has an opportunity to be a platform for more women like you all here to day to succeed and lead.

Conclusion

- I. Thank you BRIC for having inviting me here today. It is truly such an honor to be here amongst such wonderful leaders and inspiring women.